

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 20977 01 OF 02 191529Z

56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SAM-01 ACDA-07 NEA-10 /078 W
----- 063322

O P 191531Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3088

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 20977

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, FRG

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT STATEMENTS RE AID TO ITALY -- FRENCH
REACTIONS

REF: STATE 177790

1. SUMMARY. WEEKEND PRESS GIVES DETAILED COVERAGE TO THE REACTIONS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES IN FRANCE OVER CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S REPORTED REMARKS REGARDING A LOAN RESCUE OPERATION TO ITALY IF COMMUNISTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE NEW ITALIAN CABINET. WHETHER OR NOT COMMUNISTS ARE EVENTUALLY NAMED, GOF FINDS ITSELF IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. PREDICTABLY THE STRONGEST REACTION CAME FROM THE LEFT, WITH THE COMMUNISTS ACCUSING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF A BLATANT RETURN TO ATLANTICISM AND OF SUBMISSION TO AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE DOMAIN OF EUROPEAN POLITICS. CITING PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S "HIGH-HANDED AND CAVALIER" METHODS IN DEALING WITH THE TRADITIONAL FRENCH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 20977 01 OF 02 191529Z

POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, RENE ANDRIEU, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE PCF DAILY HUMANITE, DRAWS AN ANALOGY BETWEEN GISCARD'S CHOOSING THE US AS A PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO ANNOUNCE POSSIBLE FRENCH INTERVENTION IN LEBANON (PARIS 15543) AND THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S "COLLUSION" WITH LONDON, BONN AND WASHINGTON IN THE CURRENT AFFAIR. JEAN KANAPA, MEMBER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBURO, ACCUSED VGE OF INSULTING THE FRENCH PEOPLE AND RESORTING TO HIS "HABITUAL HYPOCRISY."

3. FRENCH SOCIALISTS ARE IN A MORE DELICATE POSITION, IN THAT SCHMIDT IS A MEMBER OF THE SAME SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AS PS LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. THUS THE SOCIALISTS FIND THEMSELVES OBLIGED TO CONDEMN SCHMIDT'S STATEMENTS AND ACTION WHILE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID LAST WINTER'S HELSINGOR SQUABBLE, WHICH SERVED NO ONE'S INTEREST. THE PSF IN GENERAL FEELS THAT SCHMIDT LOST A MARVELOUS OCCASION TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT, AND THAT HIS REMARK FALLS INTO THE CATEGORY OF THOSE POLITICAL "UNDERSTANDINGS" THAT SHOULD NEVER BE OPENLY EXPRESSED. CLAUDE ESTIER, NATIONAL SECRETARY IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY, BLASTED THE PRESIDENT FOR INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

4. THE PARTIES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE GAULLISTS, ARE MAINTAINING AN UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE. THE REMARKS THEMSELVES PROBABLY DO NOT DISPLEASE THE CENTRIST PARTIES NOR THE PRESIDENT'S OWN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS, BUT THE HARD-LINE GAULLISTS ARE ALREADY CITING SCHMIDT'S REMARKS AND VGE'S ALLEGED CONCURRENCE AS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF FRANCE'S GROWING VASSALDOM TO THE US. FORMER UDR SECRETARY GENERAL SANGUINETTI CALLS THE AFFAIR ONE MORE PROOF OF THE UNDERMINING OF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 20977 02 OF 02 191526Z

56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 NEA-10 /077 W

----- 063320

O P 191531Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3089

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 20977

GAULLISM BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

5. GOF'S ONLY OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO DATE HAS BEEN AN ELYSEE SPOKESMAN'S REMARK ON JULY 17 THAT GOF HAD "NO OBJECTION" CONCERNING SCHMIDT'S REMARKS.

6. COMMENT: THE ISSUE WILL NO DOUBT REMAIN A SORE POINT WITH GOF FOR SOME TIME TO COME. WERE COMMUNISTS TO BE NAMED TO THE NEW ITALIAN CABINET, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND ITSELF IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. BY ADHERING TO THE ALLEGED PUERTO RICAN UNDERSTANDING, GISCARD WOULD OPEN HIMSELF TO FURTHER ACCUSATIONS OF UNDERMINING EUROPE AND INTERFERING IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE HE TO CEDE TO DOMESTIC PRESSURE AND GIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ITALY IN SPITE OF THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THE CABINET (A POSSIBILITY WE CONSIDER REMOTE), GISCARD WOULD CERTAINLY RISK WORSENING RELATIONS WITH SOME OF HIS EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND WITH USG. IF COMMUNISTS ARE NOT NAMED TO THE NEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 20977 02 OF 02 191526Z

ITALIAN CABINET, GISCARD WILL SHARE THE "BLAME" FOR EXERTING "BLACKMAIL" ON ITALY.
GAMMON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, SPEECHES, POLITICAL PARTIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS20977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760277-0435
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760744/aaaabmsu.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 177790
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHMIDT STATEMENTS RE AID TO ITALY -- FRENCH REACTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, GE, FR, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006